

Message Text

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ACTION PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 MCE-00 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00
IGA-02 AID-05 EB-08 SS-15 SSO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 INRE-00 /057 W
-----102889 311722Z /43

O 311720Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4574
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
DSAA WASHDC PRIORITY
INFO USMISSION USNATO PRIORITY
USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 01891

SECDEF FOR ISA/OSDR&E

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NATO, BE
SUBJECT: BELGIAN HAWK

REF: BRUSSELS 1471

SUMMARY. SOCIALIST PARTY OPPOSITION TO I-HAWK (REFTEL)
IS MORE A SYMPTOM OF AN INTERNAL BELGIAN POLITICAL
DISPUTE THAN DIRECTED AGAINST HAWK. CHANCES ARE GOOD
SOCIALISTS WILL SUPPORT BELGIAN GOVERNMENT ON I-HAWK
PROGRAM, BUT BELGIANS WILL MOST PROBABLY REQUEST U.S.
GOOD OFFICES FOR ANOTHER EXTENSION OF RAYTHEON CONTRAC-
TURAL OFFER. END SUMMARY.

1. WELL-PLACED SOCIALIST SOURCE GAVE US A RUNDOWN ON
PRESENT STATE OF SOCIALIST PARTY AND BELGIAN GOVERNMENT
DECISION-MAKING ON I-HAWK. HE TOLD US THAT VAN MIERT
STATEMENT (REFTEL) WAS RESULT OF POOR INTERNAL
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POLITICAL COORDINATION WITHIN BELGIAN SOCIALIST PARTY
(BSP) AND WITHIN GOVERNMENT. VAN MIERT, WHO IS THE
FLEMISH CO-PRESIDENT OF THE BSP, WAS OVERLOOKED BY ALL
SIDES AS HE IS NOT IN PARLIAMENT AND ISSUE WAS BEING
HANDLED PRIMARILY BY FRANCOPHONES. IN ORDER TO CALL
ATTENTION TO HIMSELF, VAN MIERT "THREW A COBBLESTONE
THROUGH THE WINDOW" AND ISSUED HIS STATEMENT.

2. VAN MIERT AND OTHER IMPORTANT SOCIALISTS WILL BE BRIEFED ON ALL ASPECTS OF I-HAWK BY DEFENSE MINISTER VANDEN BOEYNANTS ON FEB 1. THEY ARE NOT EXPECTED TO OPPOSE I-HAWK ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE. THE MOD WILL BE ABLE TO ASSURE THEM THAT THE FUNDS EXIST TO PERMIT BELGIAN PARTICIPATION WITHIN THE DEFENSE BUDGET (BY CUTS ELSEWHERE) AND THAT NO SUPPLEMENTARY FUNDS WILL BE NECESSARY.

3. THE BSP BUREAU WILL MEET TO DISCUSS THE PARTY'S POSITION ON I-HAWK ON MONDAY, FEB 6, AFTER THE RETURN TO BELGIUM OF SOCIALIST FOREIGN MINISTER SIMONET. SIMONET AND SOCIALIST MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CLAES ARE SAID TO BE CONVINCED ON THE NEED FOR BELGIUM TO PARTICIPATE IN THE I-HAWK PROGRAM, AND THEREFORE SIMONET'S PRESENCE AT THE BSP BUREAU MEETING FEB 6 IS ESSENTIAL. AFTER THAT MEETING, AT WHICH THE BSP IS EXPECTED TO ACCEPT THE I-HAWK, THE GOVERNMENT AS A WHOLE SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACT QUICKLY AND FAVORABLY ON THE ISSUE.

4. AS THE PRESENT RAYTHEON CONTRACTUAL OFFER ON I-HAWK EXPIRES FEB 3 (SECDEF/ASD:ISA MSG 1841, DTG 241721Z JAN 78), ANOTHER EXTENSION WILL BE REQUIRED, IF THE SCENARIO EXPLAINED ABOVE HOLDS. WE WILL
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REPORT AS SOON AS SUCH A REQUEST IS RECEIVED OFFICIALLY FROM THE DEFENSE MINISTRY. OLSEN

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